



### Self surveying structures

1. A structure seen as a surveying actor
2. self-surveillance as a medical term. Comparing audio and video surveillance to the human senses. Surveillance architecture as an organism.
3. semi-living. measurement of the self.
4. neural networks, the learning and seeing. How does a system learn? Calculating and standardizing urban phenomena. Observation and judgment.
5. Knowing and understanding the environment versus data collection, data storage and data analysis.
6. surveillance as the unseen yet omnipresent.
7. Authority of an artificial intelligent system.
8. A structure filled with camera observation warns us of a possibility of coming violence.

//=====Quotes=====

Jordan Crandall

*Spatial Data infrastructures are promoted as participatory and inclusive while remaining largely inaccessible, pursuing proprietary aims, and infused with the potential not only to protect but also to violate.*

*Many citizens and consumers do not have access to this spatial information or to the tracked patterns from their everyday activity as this data is used to depict, monitor or target them.*

*The urban realm is understood through the spatialization of algorithmic operations.*

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Suicide box.

The bit Suicide Box is a motion detection video system designed to capture vertical activity. Unit includes BITcamera, motion capture card, analysis software and utility concealment casing. In standard operation any vertical motion in frame will trigger the camera to record to disk.

Bureau installed the Suicide Box for trial application in range of the Golden Gate Bridge California 1996; an initial deployment period [100 days] metered 17 bridge events. System efficacy: Suicide Box system supplied public, frame-accurate data of a social phenomenon not previously accurately quantified. Box placement was determined to exploit cultural climate and BIT agent proximity; San Francisco is gateway to the Silicon Valley and both Information capital and Suicide capital of the USA.

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A theoretical experiment:

Visual surveillance primarily involves the interpretation of image sequences. Advanced visual surveillance goes further and automates the detection of predefined\*\* alarm events in a given context. Whilst the definition of where and how an alarm event may occur is required, it is the intelligent dynamic scene and event discrimination which lies at the heart of advanced visual surveillance

**S: (adj) sentient (consciously perceiving) "*sentient of the intolerable load*"; "*a boy so sentient of his surroundings*"- W.A.White**

<http://wordnet.princeton.edu/>

I will try to explore the idea of a building or structure that is observing, listening and learning, and from that learned experience is trying to make decisions. In this way a building becomes a sentient being, it gains the ability to perceive in a beforehand constructed subjective manner.

When a surveillance camera is assisted by artificial intelligence the objectivity of recording and storage of images is lost and replaced by a systematical form of decision making.

Smart structures, Learning systems and Artificial intelligence are all definitions that become highly problematic when they are used to describe something life like. Whether simple or complex, cybernetic or simulating biological systems, computer driven learning systems remain a form of digital categorisation, which I feel is in contradiction to human behaviour. When looking at the implications of camera surveillance as a sentient being, we have to see these definitions in perspective. By implementing these learning systems we are allowing the surveillance system to make decisions.

When becoming in any which way an “autonomous” or automated system, will an intelligent structure have room for error. uncertainty and incompleteness due to noise, occlusion, and the general ill-posed nature of the inverse-perspective projection used to infer the scene from the image data.

Learning systems already common in all forms of artificial intelligence.  
observation requires an object.

The standard shape of the panopticon, the dome shaped structure, has lost it's necessity with the placement of tracking camera's.  
the sentiment of an invisible omniscience can be obtained through the unseen camera.

A significant aspect to the panopticon is that the mere notion of being watched and surveyed is enough to accomplish the regulating effect of surveillance - the suggestion of observation is a functional mechanism by itself. But if the 'organism' or invisible surveying system is not present in the same sense - we do not see or sense it - is this effect then lost?

Artificial intelligence monitoring the monitors.

### **References:**

Visual surveillance in a dynamic and uncertain world, 1994, Hilary Buxtona, Shaogang Gong ,  
School of Cognitive and Computing Sciences, University of Sussex,

Machinic Vision, John Johnston, Critical Inquiry, 1999.

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The Geospatialization of Calculative Operations, Tracking, Sensing and Megacities., Jordan Crandall, Theory, Culture & Society 2010.

The Listening Eye: Postmodernism, Paranoia, and the Hypervisible, Jerry Aline Flieger,

**To-do:**

Concrete examples.

Michelle Teran her work.

Artificial Neural networks.